

SF1008

00 ESF

DE YEKADL 0221 141537Z NOV

O 141440Z

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~ 141440Z

FM CIA

TO STATE EYES ONLY FOR RUSK, HARRIMAN, BALL, HILSMAN, HUGHES
 OSD EYES ONLY FOR MC NAMARA, GILPATRIC, TAYLOR, KURLAK, MR
 WILLIAM BUNDY

WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR MC GEORGE BUNDY.

BT

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~ CITE CAS 2441

FOR STATE, DOD, JCS AND CIA

HONOLULU FOR CINCPAC

JOINT EMBASSY, MACV, CAS MESSAGE

REF: DEPTTEL 570

1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF THREE MESSAGES IN RESPONSE TO
 REFERENCE AND DEALS WITH IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS.

2. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE TURNOVER
 BY CAS TO MACV OF BORDER SURVEILLANCE AND MOUNTAIN SCOUT ASSETS.

THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH THE REMAINING IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY
 OPERATIONS SPECIFIED IN DEPTTEL 570. THESE ARE THE COMBAT INTELLI-
 GENCE TEAM PROGRAM, THE CIVILIAN AIRBORNE RANGERS, AND THE

EO 12958

APPROVED FOR 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs

RELEASE (C)

DATE: DEC 2002

EO 12958

3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs

EO 12958

3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs

3. IT IS JOINTLY RECOMMENDED THAT THESE IN-COUNTRY PARA-
 MILITARY ASSETS BE TURNED OVER TO MACV FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE.

4. THE COMBAT INTELLIGENCE TEAM PROGRAM COMPRISES SOME
 650 INDIVIDUALS OPERATING IN TEAMS OF APPROXIMATELY 18 MEN EACH.
 IT PARALLELS IN EVERY WAY THE MOUNTAIN SCOUT PROGRAM, THE ASSETS
 OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING ABSORBED INTO THE CIDG PROGRAM. HOWEVER,
 IT OPERATES IN NON-MONTAGNARD AREAS AND IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF
 ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. THIS PROGRAM ORIGINALLY CAME UNDER THE SUPPORT
 OF CAS SINCE IT WAS BASED ON A STAY-BEHIND PROGRAM WHICH WAS
 ACTIVATED WHEN THE NEEDS OF THE INSURGENCY SITUATION SO DICTATED.
 THESE ASSETS HAVE NOW BECOME OVERT. MACV HAS THE CAPABILITY TO
 ABSORB THEM AS A PART OF THE CIDG STRIKE FORCES. THIS ACTION
 WOULD ENHANCE U.S. MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THESE ASSETS.

JFK LIBRARY
 MANDATORY REVIEW
 CASE # NLK-98-1
 DOCUMENT # 7a

5. THE CIVILIAN AIRBORNE RANGERS, COMPRISING THREE COMPANIES [2] 7a
OF APPROXIMATELY 150 MEN EACH AND A REPLACEMENT COMPANY OF 92
MEN, WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDED AS STRIKE FORCES FOR OPERATIONS IN
LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM, AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE
OPERATIONS WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM. THEY HAVE, IN THE PAST, PERFORMED
THESE MISSIONS TO A LIMITED DEGREE AND HAVE ALSO BEEN ATTACHED
TO REGULAR OPERATIONS WHEN DESIRABLE. VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES
ARE NOW UNDER THE FULL CONTROL OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF AND
MOST EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF THESE FORCES IN CONJUNCTION
WITH OTHER OPERATIONS BEING CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN PLAN. THEREFORE, THESE UNITS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED
WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES, THE GUIDANCE
AND SUPPORT OF WHICH IS ALREADY A MACV RESPONSIBILITY. MACV
WILL SEEK TO REGULARIZE THESE GROUPS BY THEIR INDUCTION INTO
ARVN AND UTILIZATION ON OPERATIONS IN THE SAME FASHION AS OTHER
SPECIAL FORCES. THE UNITS ARE WELL TRAINED, FLEXIBLE, AND AGGRESSIVE.

6.

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 12958
3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs
(C)

[3]

7a

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 12958
3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs
(C)

7. IF THESE TRANSFERS TO MACV ARE MADE, MACV WILL HAVE UNIQUE SUPPORT AND CONTROL OF OVERT IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY ASSETS AND WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO SYSTEMATIZE COMMAND AND SUPPORT OF THESE IRREGULAR UNITS.

8. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CAS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY FUNDS AND MATERIAL TO MACV FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AT NOT LESS THAN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT FY 64. FY 65 FUNDING WILL BE HANDLED BY MACV, HOWEVER, CAS CHANNELS MAY BE UTILIZED FOR THESE FUNDS IF SO AGREED BY DOD AND CAS HEADQUARTERS.

GP-1

5400

~~SECRET~~ ~~EYES ONLY~~

NNN